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REORGANIZATION OF STRUCTURE AND CONTROL  
SYSTEM OF CENTRAL MINISTRIES AND BUREAUS

-North Korea-

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## REORGANIZATION OF STRUCTURE AND CONTROL

### SYSTEM OF CENTRAL MINISTRIES AND BUREAUS

[The following is a full translation of an article appearing in  
Minju Sabon (Democratic Judicature), P'yongyang, 25 Sep 59, pages  
2-6.]

Our Party has been organizing and guiding in a creative manner the control or supervision of the State to suit the changing environments. The decision of the Party and Government regarding the establishment of local industry and the reorganization of the structure and control or supervision system of central ministries and bureaus, has been put under way at the proposal of Comrade Premier KIM Il-song. This decision is another indication of the creative character of the State supervision under the guidance of the Party.

Under this decision, a series of measures have been taken to reorganize their structure and control system with a view to integrating them in a creative manner and boldly simplifying their structure. Thus, the ministries of electricity, coal

industry and chemical industry have been unified into the Power Chemical Industry Ministry (Tongyok Hwahak Kongop Song); the Fishing Industry Ministry (Susansong) has been merged into the Light Industry Ministry, and the Purchasing and Food Administration Ministry (Sumae Yangjong Song) into the Commerce Ministry; and the following ministries have been abolished: the Labor, the Local Administration (Chibang Haengjong Song), the City Construction and Administration (Tosi Kongsul Kyongyong Song), and the Justice (Sabop Song). Some of the functions carried out by the Justice Ministry, such as guidance of local courts and arbitration by the State (kukka chungjae saop) have been transferred to the Supreme Court (Ch'oego Chaep'apao); some of the functions of the Labor Ministry, such as labor wage, labor norm, and improvement of techniques, have been turned over to the Central Committee of the Korean Labor Federation (Choson Chikop Ch'ongdougmaeng); and some of the functions of the City Construction and Administration Ministry have been transferred to both State Construction Committee (Kukka Kongsol Wiwonhoe) and the People's Council of P'yongyang City.

Moreover, under this decision, a series of measures have been taken to expand and strengthen the power of local government organs and to establish and develop the system of local industry.

These measures have been taken with a view to eliminating irrational factors that hamper the development of local industry so that it can be expanded and developed on the basis of originality and creativeness of local government organs.

As a result, local government organs have expanded and strengthened the all-purpose (chonghao) machine building plants in their provinces, have set up iron mills capable of producing 10,000 to 20,000 tons of iron per year, cement mills capable of turning out 30,000 to 50,000 tons of cement per year, and have created local fuel bases. Thus, the local demands for iron materials, construction materials and machinery can be met with local products. Various ministries and other central organs have transferred to local people's councils the following factories and projects: [some] construction material factories, meat foodstuff processing factories, daily necessity plants, aquatic product cultivation, small and medium power plants for electrification of rural areas, some coal mines, irrigation projects, such factories and enterprises as small in scale or of local significance.

As a result, the independent power of local government organs have become thoroughly expanded in formulation of plans and implementation of budgets. The structure of local people's councils has been reorganized and measures have been taken to strengthen the work of planning committees of local people's councils.

The main features of the measures taken by the Party was to strengthen the lower units. To this end, the structure and work of central [organs] have been drastically reorganized and desk or paper work has been further simplified so as to send 20 to 30 percent of the personnel belonging to central organs including qualified technicians, specialists and administrators to provinces or local centers. Thus, local units have been strengthened to a considerable extent.

Such drastic reorganization and reduction of central organs have made it possible to exercise the guiding capability of central organs in a more rational fashion. On the other hand, expansion of the power of local organs and strengthening of their capabilities have resulted in enhancement of their democratic and creative features. Thus, the unified guidance on the part of the central [organs] and local or provincial democracy have been combined in a most rational manner.

In the organization of State supervision or control, the Leninistic principle of centralization of power has been further developed to suit new environments, and the growth of production and culture has been promoted.

Then, what are the environments which have conditioned further development of democratic centralization of power in State control? This is a reference to the fact that a new objective condition has been created which demands that, in Socialist

construction of Korea, local industry system be set up and developed along with central industry.

With rapid development of the people's economy after the war, new branches of industry were founded; as they were further expanded and developed, new ministries and bureaus were set up, and a system of industrial control, concentrated in the center, was established. This control system was an appropriate one at the time for the level of industrial development was low, enough number of cadres and technicians were not available, and local industry was almost non-existent.

In the past few years, however, central and local industries have rapidly developed with the result that a great change has taken place in the structure of industry and distribution of productive capacity. In the implementation of the decision adopted at the June plenary session of 1958 with regard to a rapid expansion of foodstuff processing industry and production of daily necessities, epoch-making achievements have been made in the development of local industry. During the short period of time since June 1958, over one thousand local industry factories have been newly set up; at present, over two thousand local industry factories including producers' cooperatives are turning out daily necessities of various types.

As a result, local Party and government organs and their workers have come to play a more important part, factories are

located closer to raw material sources and consumers so that concealed reserves and possibilities in the provinces have come to be extensively mobilized. Thus, local industry bases as well as central industry have been established, creating new conditions favorable for setting up firm local industry system.

All these achievements constitute evidence that the Party economic policy giving priority to development of the heavy industry and concurrently developing the light industry and agriculture is an appropriate one, and that the Party policy of developing small and medium enterprises as well as great ones, of expanding both central and local industries and of combining modern techniques and those of handicrafts is correct and of great vitality.

Establishment of local industry system is an important revolutionary task before us. By establishing local industry system and expanding and strengthening the function of local organs will make it possible to further extensively mobilize the vast resources and labor reserves concealed in the provinces, to reflect in time local demands in production, and to develop local economy more systematically and more rapidly.

In addition, development of local industry will further promote expansion of agriculture, further strengthen the ties between cities and the countryside and those between industry and agriculture, and eliminate the distinction between them.

Establishment of local industry system will obviate unnecessary transportation; and appropriate combination of central industry and local industry will ensure expansion of central industry, in particular that of the heavy industry, and will further increase the output of consumer goods with the result that the people's livelihood will be improved all the more.

To-day, we have possibilities at our disposal by which to establish local industry system and develop it at a rapid pace. Development of the heavy industry enables us to create material and technical foundations necessary to the development of local industry. In addition, the laboring masses feel more confident about [successful] control of industry. Their creativeness also has been given a chance to be displayed more effectively.

The existing system of industrial control has proved irrational in properly utilizing these possibilities. For the existing system is too much centralized in its organization and power, so much so that, as pointed out by Comrade KIM Il-sung, the system is top-heavy and feeble in its feet.

To have the possibilities favorable for Socialist construction fully realized, it is important to make the head lighter and the feet stronger by transferring the power and the personnel too much concentrated in the central organs to the provinces in a drastic manner. The decisions recently adopted by the



Party and Government are decisive and epoch-making measures for strengthening the feet.

These measures are not merely business and administrative routines, but are of great political and economic significance; they are reorganization of strength for new combat and an important preparatory work aimed at ensuring new reconversion.

At present we find ourselves at a turning point where we go from a plateau of socialist construction over to a still higher plateau. We are now completing the First Five Year Plan two and a half years ahead of the original schedule; in 1960, we will be going through a one year period of completion and filling up (wanch'unggi) when we will adjust economic development and consolidate the achievements before entering into the Second Five Year Plan period beginning with 1961, a decisive period of the struggle for completing socialist construction in Korea.

The reorganization of industrial control system undertaken at a time (with a view to further strengthening and developing democratic centralization of power) when one combat is ending in a victory and a new combat is being prepared for, will make it possible for the Party's total line of economic construction, aimed at giving priority to the growth of the heavy industry and concurrently developing the light industry and agriculture, to be implemented more successfully. Thus, socialistic industrialization and general socialist construction of Korea will be further developed promoted.

It is necessary to make the top lighter and the lower part heavier not only in the control of industry but in the control of all other sectors of the nation, and the control of judicature is no exception.

The Party and Government have abolished the Justice Ministry. As a result, in the control of judicature, the top has become much lighter, making it possible for the center more rationally to effectuate the guidance and control of judicial administration.

It was in line with legitimate demand for development of judicial administration that the Justice Ministry has been abolished and the basic function carried out by it has been transferred to the Supreme Court (Ch'oego Chaep'anso).

It is common knowledge that judicial administration carries on the work concerning the organization, of local courts, training and distribution of judicial cadres, the machinery of the law, finances and budget, legal statistics (chep'an t'ongye), guidance of authentication, explanation of laws and ordinances, and guidance of local courts. Success of the activities of local courts depends to a large extent on the proper organization of judicial administration.

It is necessary that judicial administration is carried on by definite system. We may cite two systems by which judicial administration is carried on. One is to set up a specialized organ to take charge of judicial administration alone, with judicial administration and judiciary (chaep'an) separated from

each other. Under the other system, judicial administration is not under the control not of a specialized organ but of the Supreme Court; under this arrangement, judicial administration and judiciary are both under a superior judiciary organ (Sanggup Chaep'an kigwan).

Up to the recent abolition of the Justice Ministry, judicial administration and judiciary were carried on separately. After the liberation, judiciary organs (chaep'an kigwan) and judicial administration organs (sabop baengjong kigwan) were separately set up and were operated both in the national capital and provinces. Since the Justice Department (Sabopbu) of the provincial people's council was abolished in 1948, judicial administration in the provinces was put under the charge of local courts; thus in the provinces, local courts were in charge of both judicial administration and judiciary functions (chap'an kinung). In the national capital, the machinery of judicial administration was left intact, until the recent measures were taken to put the Supreme Court in charge of judicial administration as well.

We admit that the old arrangement separating judiciary functions and judicial administration did meet the demands of objective situation and that vast affirmative role was played by that arrangement. The Justice Ministry has accomplished many great achievements during its entire existence: it guaranteed, under the leadership of the Party, democratization of the

judicial system; it established the system of popular judiciary organs, implemented the judicial policies of the Party, trained a great number of judicial workers and carried on a great deal of codification. This does not mean, however, that these tasks should be always performed by judicial administration separated from judiciary functions. When environments are changed, systems also should be changed. At present, our judiciary organs are consolidated and strengthened in their organization on the basis of democratic principles, and the activities of people's judiciary organs have been considerably strengthened. Moreover, since the ranks of judicial workers have been basically replenished and consolidated, it is not necessary any more to maintain a specialized judicial administration organ such as the Justice Ministry. If the system of judicial administration is not reorganized in time under the circumstances, deficiencies of one sort or another may come into existence.

First of all, there is something inconvenient and irrational in carrying out the function of guiding local courts. The guidance to be provided to the court consists of two parts: supervision of trials and control of administration. Supervision of trials refer to detecting defects (p'yonhyang) in conduct of trials of concrete cases and correcting such defects; control of administration refers to organizing judiciary organs and guiding their administration. In guiding the work of courts,

there are many cases in which it is necessary to use both methods at the same time. To properly conduct trials, it is important to control administration of courts.

Under the system where the Supreme Court and the Justice Ministry exist separately, it is inconvenient to combine these two methods in a unified manner. Even though the cases tried in local courts are reviewed by the Supreme Court, the latter was not in a position, under the old system, to correct the deficiencies in the organization of local courts it had detected in the course of reviewing the cases appealed to it. Such deficiencies were to be remedied only through the Justice Ministry.

The Justice Ministry, in its turn, had no power to correct the defects it had discovered in trials by local courts; the Ministry had to submit its views to provincial courts or the Supreme Court so as to have the defects corrected by such courts. Since the Ministry did not conduct trials of cases, little help was provided when it supervised the work of courts; there were occasions on which the courts felt it was unnecessary and troublesome for them to be supervised by the Ministry.

The abolition of the Justice Ministry does not weaken judicial administration but strengthens it, so that the implementation of the Party's policies with regard to conducting trials are all the more thoroughly assured. The basic duty of judicial administration is to guarantee, by organizing and guiding the

people's court, that the Party's judicial policy is properly carried out. Therefore, judicial administration workers must keep themselves informed on trials and be familiarized with the Party's judicial policies and know how to properly apply the law from the class point of view, before they can discharge their duties of assuring, by administrative approach, the legitimacy of trials.

However, since judicial administration workers did not conduct trials, it was difficult for them to do their duties just mentioned. Since our courts are orderly consolidated in their organization, and their workers also are qualified in political and practical matters and have acquired much experience it is now possible to conduct judicial administration more easily and effectively by transferring it to the judiciary organ (chaep'an kigwan)

If the Justice Ministry is maintained, the work of the Ministry and that of Supreme Court can be duplicated or there can be differences of opinion between these two agencies in their relations with local courts. The Supreme Court used to supervise local courts in their conduct of trials while the Justice Ministry controlled and guided local courts in judicial administration. As a result, there were duplications and differences in opinion in their relations with local courts.

When the Justice Ministry existed, it could happen that

these two agencies had to exchange more documents than necessary and the local courts had on some occasions to send various reports to both agencies. Therefore it was justifiable that the Party and Government took the measure to abolish the Justice Ministry; the measure was also in line with the basic spirit in which the system of industrial control was reorganized. The Party and Government also took measures to further strengthen the guidance to the activities of the organs in charge of internal affairs, investigation and prosecution, and administration of justice; they also set up a new machinery, in the secretariat (samuch'ongguk) of the Cabinet, to take charge of the code (bopchon). It is the task of this agency to take charge of the legislative affairs (bopche ssop) of the Republic.

Thus, an epoch-making changes have been made, by the recent measures, not only in the control system of industry but also, in the same spirit, in the control system of the judiciary.

The reorganized control system of the judiciary has made it possible to strengthen to a greater extent the guidance by the Party of the activities of the machinery of the law, and, by making the top lighter, to make the control by the Center more rational, to strengthen local organs, and to make the codifications of the Republic meet the demand of socialistic construction.

Accurate implementation of the decision recently adopted by

the Party Standing Committee and the execution of the Cabinet decision is the task of the entire Party and nation by which to promote the socialist construction of our country still further. Therefore, our experienced and competent administrative cadres and technicians are now going out to provincial organs fully determined to strengthen those organs. This is evidence that they are prepared to be faithful to the demand of the Party and Revolution. It is the demand of realities that the working methods of our central and local organs be decisively changed to suit the changed situation. The same is required of the recently formed control system of the judiciary.

It behooves us to promptly establish working order and system suitable to the new control system of the judicature and discover new working methods suitable to the new system. We should not stop at reorganizing our machinery; we should be faithful to the implementation of the decision of the Party and Government by studying and adopting such concrete and practical measures.

Let us promote our revolution's development still further by struggling for thorough implementation of the historical decision by the Standing Committee of the Party Central Committee.



FOR REASONS OF SPEED AND ECONOMY  
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